



PULPHEROES

#9



\$3.95 US
\$5.50 CAN

SUPERMAN[®] 1997 IN ACTION COMICS[®] Annual

Written by
D. MICHELINIE
Illustrated by
V. GIARRANO
& B. BREEDING

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HELL has many forms.

To some, it is the mythological antithesis of Heaven, a fiery underworld of damnation and eternal pain.

For others, it can be the subtle cell of routine, the shackles of tedium that condemn them to a life of desperate insignificance.

But while most try to avoid Hell, some actually seek to know it, nurture it, command it. And failing to find a Hell that specifically suits their dark needs, they may even have the boldness...to create one that does!

THE MAGNETIC MEDIUM

DAVID MICHELINIE

writer

(with a tip of the concept hat to **KIERON DWYER**)

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Printed in Canada.

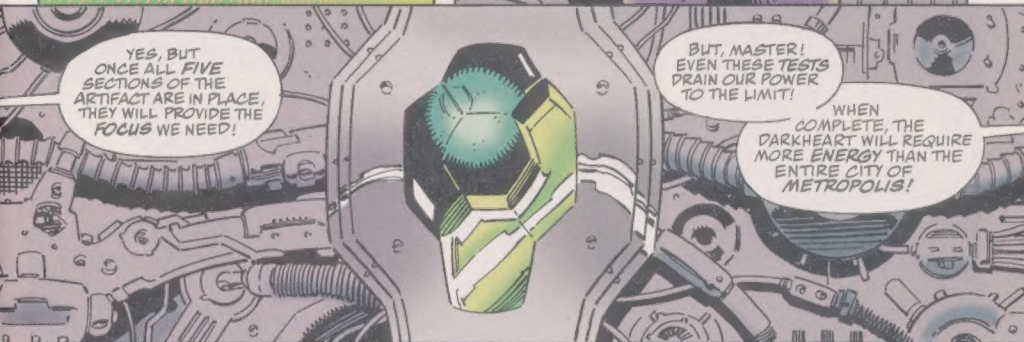
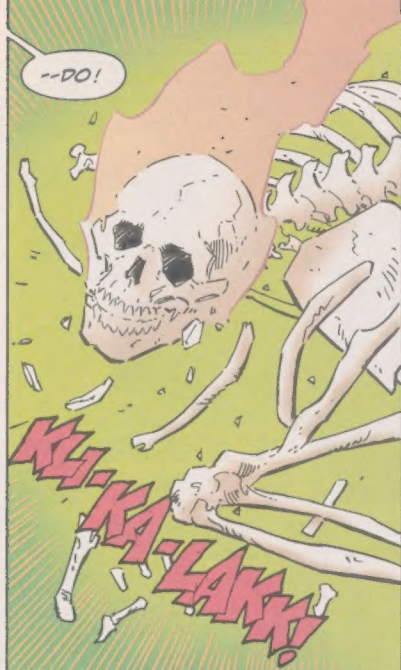
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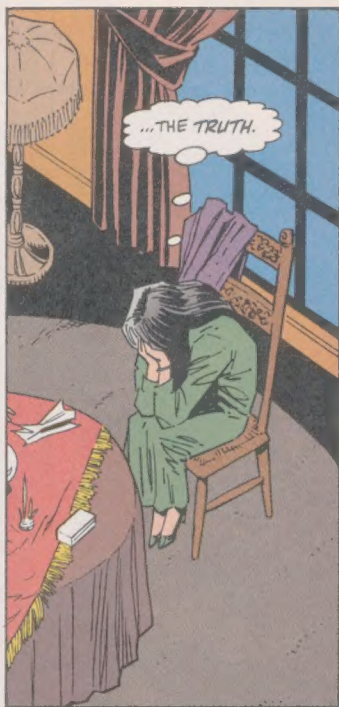
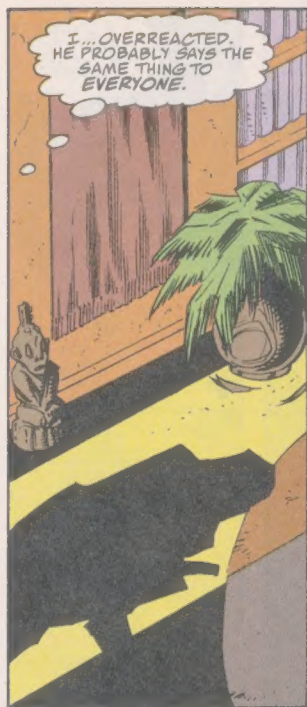
CHAPTER 1

A crackle of unwholesome energy fills the dark garret, bringing with it a scream of palpable anguish...and the sweet, shocking stench of frying flesh!











I CAN
CROSS THE
CITY IN A
HEART-
BEAT--

--AND
STILL BE
LATE FOR
WORK!

I GUESS
PART OF ME
IS STILL VERY
HUMAN!

AMAZING.

SORRY TO LEAVE
YOU IN THE LURCH, HON.
THANKS FOR FINISHING
UP THAT RESEARCH
FOR ME.

NO PROBLEM, CLARK.
ONE OF US HAD TO COVER
THAT SINKING CRUISE SHIP
STORY. LET ME GUESS:

SUPERMAN
SHOWED UP TO
RESCUE THE
PASSENGERS?

PING

FREEZE...

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replica of the original
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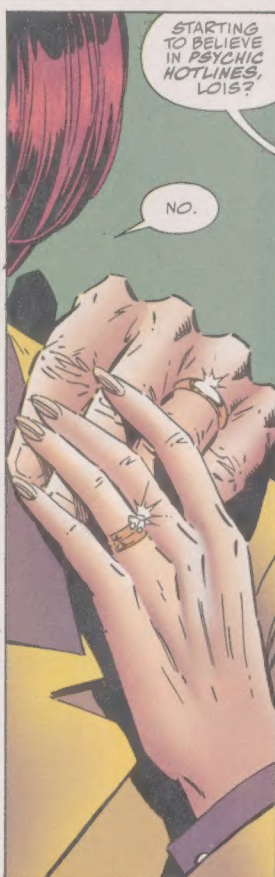
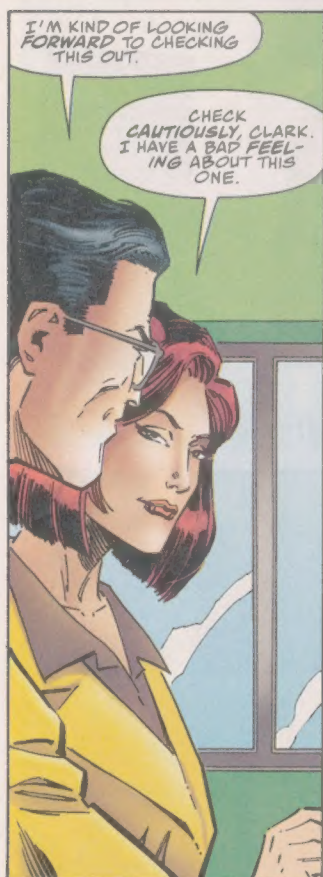
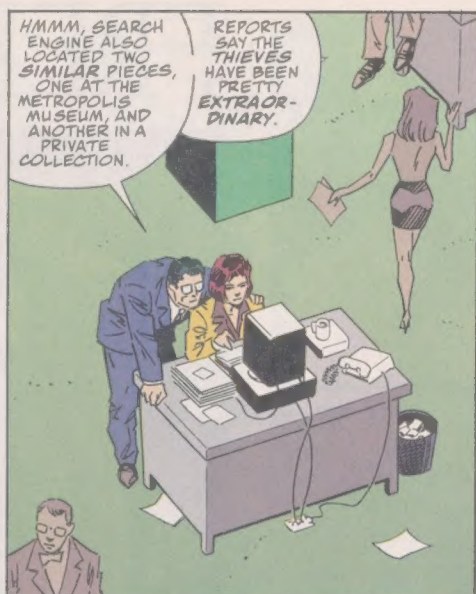
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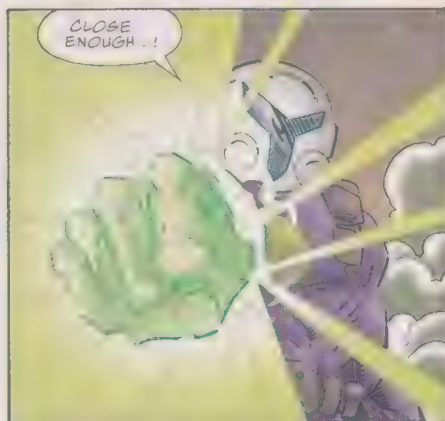
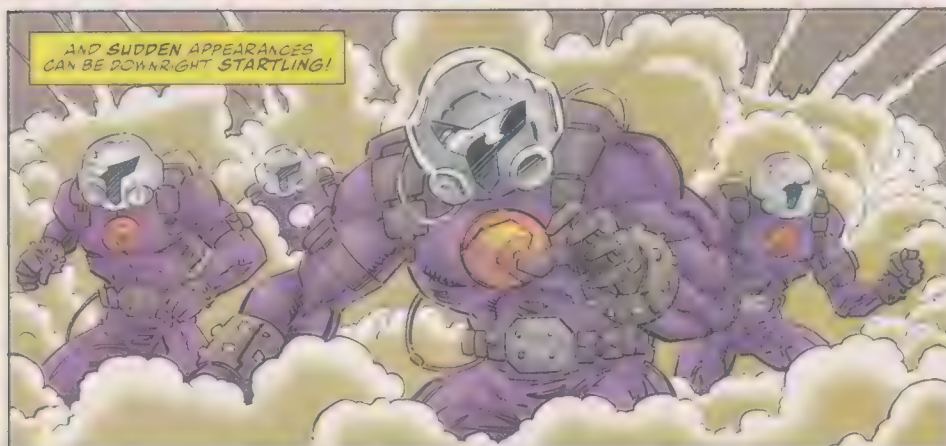
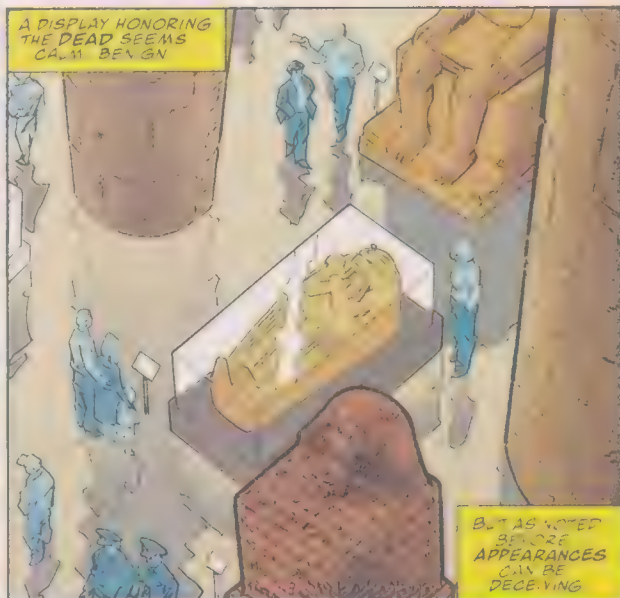
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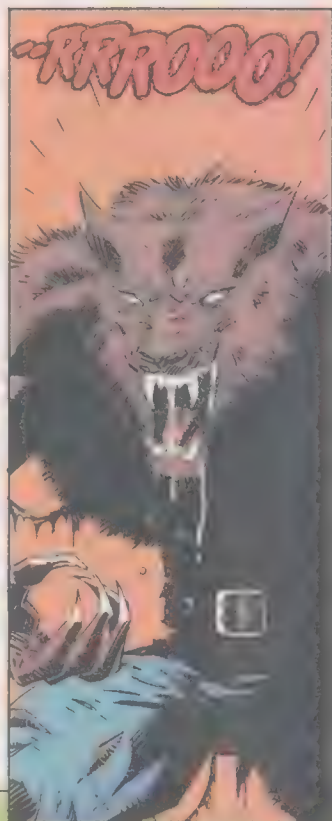
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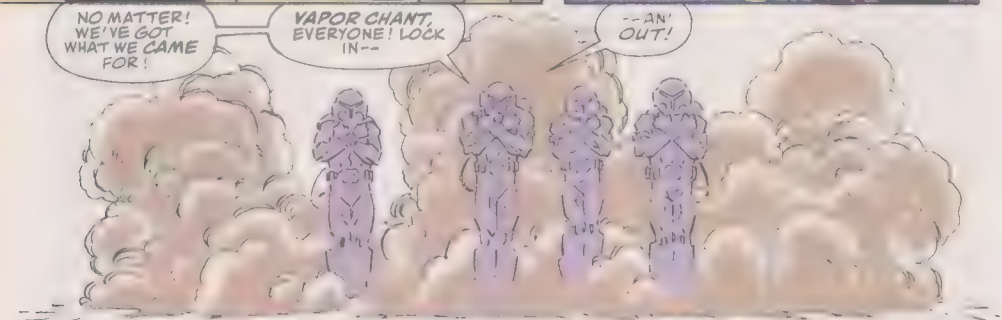
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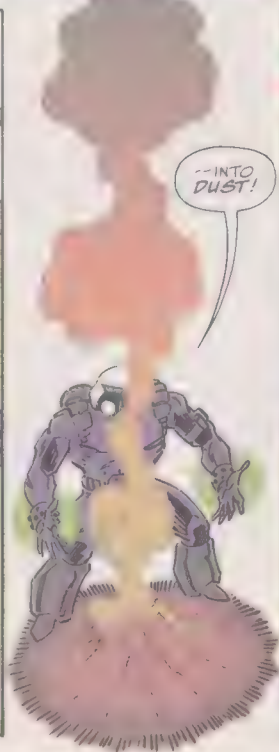
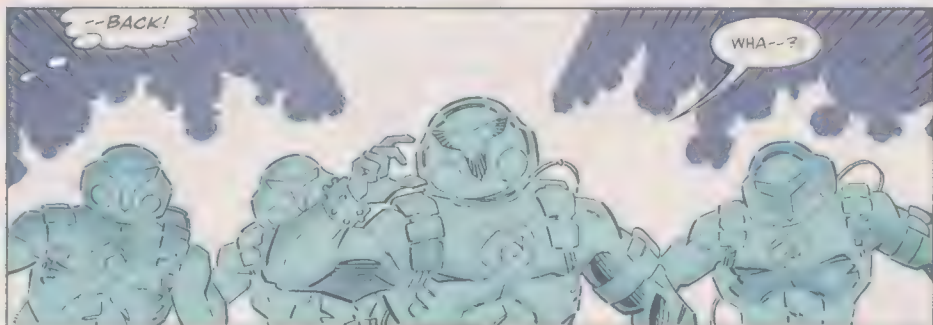
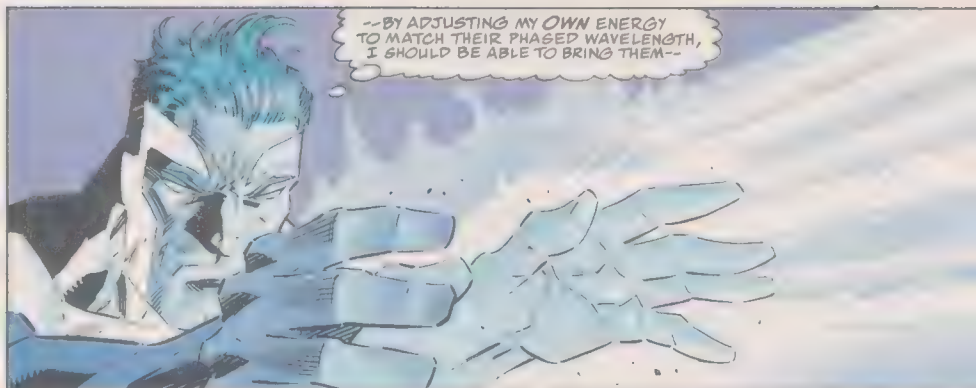


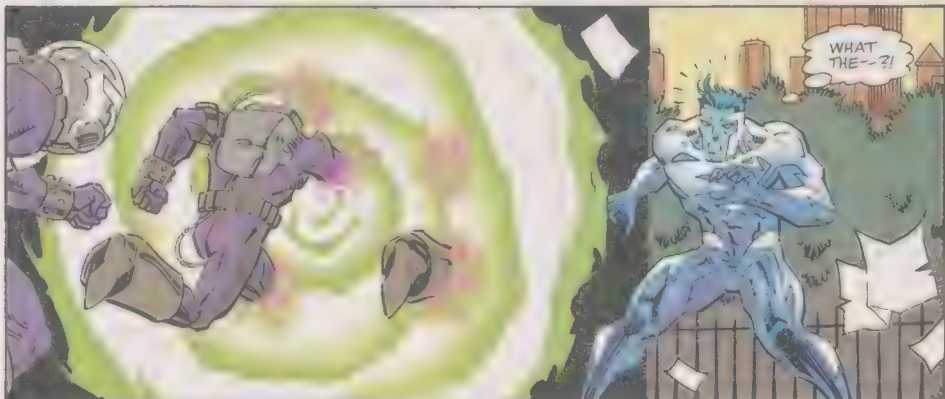


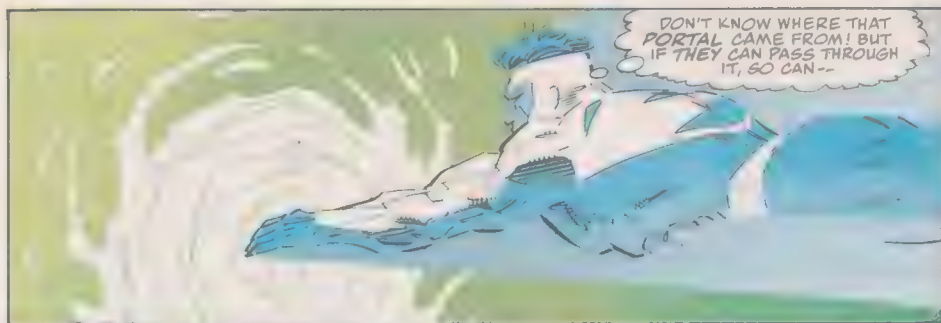












AWESOME!

Ken Caminiti

KEN CAMINITI
San Diego Padres



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what? Many of the biggest
names in the game are comin'!

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NIGHT FALLS

MADAME
MADELINE
PROFESSIONAL
MEDIUM

JOIN
HANDS,
PLEASE.

ARKRIAT,
GUIDING SPIRIT,
OPEN THE WAY
AND LEAD ME
TRUE.

GERALDINE
TULLY'S HEART IS
HEAVY. SHE SEEKS
THE SOLACE OF
CONTACT WITH HER
DEARLY DEPARTED
HUSBAND.

IF YOU HEAR
US, MARTIN TULLY,
GRANT THAT
COMFORT.

SHOW
US A
SIGN!

YES! H-HE WORE
GLASSES! A-AND
THAT CLOCK--HE WAS
ALWAYS RUSHING
EVERYWHERE!

OH,
MARTIN, IT
IS YOU!

WHAT IT IS, LADY
IS FRAUD! I'VE SPENT
MY LIFE DEBUNKING
CHARLATANS--

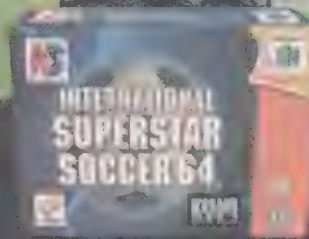
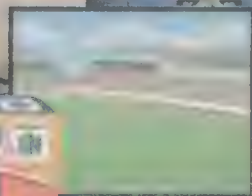
--AND THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
YOUR SO-CALLED
"MEDIUM"
IS!

HEH!
I LOVE
THIS
PART!



KONAMI XXL SPORTS SERIES

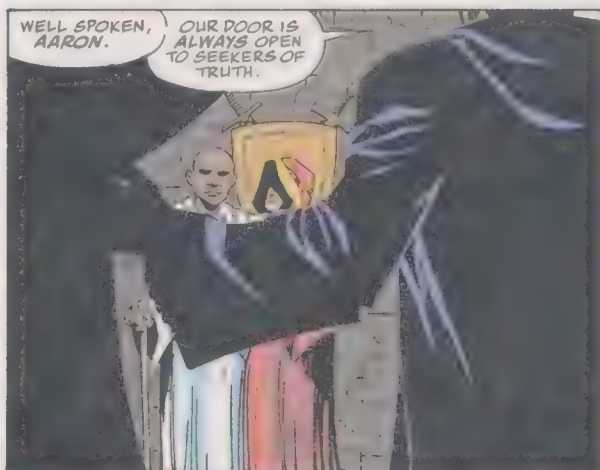
**I started kicking
inside my momma.
And I haven't stopped since.
Right now, the only thing
between me and a
world title is 8 yards and
a goalkeeper. And my foot
only listens to you.
Bury it.**



www.konami.com 1-900-896-HINT (4468) *\$0.05 per minute charge *\$1.15 per minute support from a game room.









OH, PLEASE

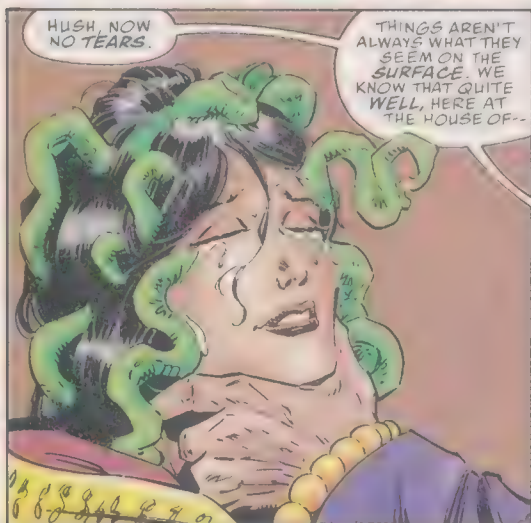
...D-DON'T
LOOK AT
ME!



WHY NOT,
MADDY?

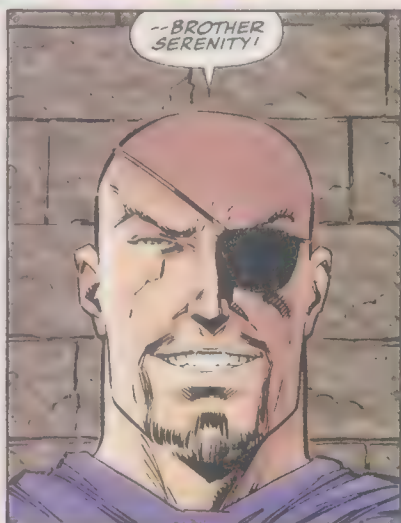
YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL!

BUT--?



HUSH, NOW
NO TEARS.

THINGS AREN'T
ALWAYS WHAT THEY
SEEM ON THE
SURFACE. WE
KNOW THAT QUITE
WELL, HERE AT
THE HOUSE OF--



--BROTHER
SERENITY!

CHAPTER 2

SALVATION takes many shapes. Some who seek it cling to icons, religious relics that bring them comfort and rare hope. Others find their savior in a bottle, a needle, a pill: they see escape as the sole solution to questions they can't even comprehend. But to Christian Blaylok, known to his reverent acolytes as "Brother Serenity," salvation takes a more potent configuration. For him, it can only be found in the siren song of sinister and forbidden... power!



A LOT OF PEOPLE
TALK ABOUT CHANGING
THE WORLD BUT WE MY
YOUNG FRIENDS, ARE ACTU-
ALLY GOING TO DO SO!

THIS MACHINE WILL
ALLOW US THE INFLUENCE
TO END WAR, TO STAY THE
TIDES OF SORROW, POVERTY,
HUNGER. ALL THAT IT RE-
QUIRES IS A FEW
MORE...

His hesitation is slight, and lost on Maddy Rausch. For she hears only the bright ring of promise, which deafens her to the more subtle undertone of threat.

:ahem:

...TESTS!

YOU CAN REALLY DO THAT? STOP ALL THAT SUFFERING WITH TH--

:gasp:

KRRZZZZ

MASTER! THE POWER GAUGES JUST SPIKED HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE!

HOW... INTRIGUING.

PERHAPS, CHILD, YOU SHOULD TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

YES. I-I'LL TELL YOU... EVERYTHING.

"MY PARENTS WERE
DEAF. I LOVED THEM
DEARLY, BUT OTHER
KIDS, WELL

"...THEY WERE
UNCOMFORTABLE
AROUND MOM AND
DAD, SO THEY
AVOIDED US

"I TOLD MYSELF IT
DIDN'T MATTER.

BY HIGH SCHOOL I WAS
KNOWN AS A **LONER**.
TAUNTS BECAME SHOVES

"BUT THEN I REACHED PUBERTY, AND
DEVELOPED A STRANGE... **SKILL**.

"BECAUSE CHILDREN--
LIKE THEIR PARENTS--
HATE WHAT ISN'T
LIKE THEM.

"I FOUND I COULD
CONTROL **MAGNETISM**
WITH MY MIND

"EVERYTHING
FROM BRACES
TO BICYCLES.

"VENGEANCE WAS
WONDERFUL.

"AND, OF COURSE, MADE
ME EVEN MORE OF AN
OUTCAST THAN BEFORE.

"I COULD MAKE THEM DANCE
AND FLY WITH MY THOUGHTS
ALONE



"SO I EMBRACED
DIFFERENCE."

"I FIGURED
THAT ISOLATING
MYSELF ON
PURPOSE
WOULDN'T HURT
AS MUCH."

"YEAH"

"RIGHT"

"THEN MOM AND
DAD DIED WITHIN
MONTHS OF EACH
OTHER, JUST AFTER
GRADUATION"

"AND I WAS
ON MY OWN
FOR REAL."

MADAME
MADELINE
PROFESSOR

"I DECIDED TO USE MY
'TALENT' TO GET BY. I
SET MYSELF UP AS A
MEDIUM--"

"--FLOATING METAL OBJECTS AS
SIGNS FROM THE DEARLY
DEPARTED."

"HEY, IT WAS
A LIVING"

"BUT LATELY, **CONTROL**
HAS BEEN ERRATIC
EVEN MY OWN **FLESH**
SEEMS DRAWN TO THE
EARTH'S MAGNETIC
FIELD. I WAS NEVER
LIKE OTHER PEOPLE
ON THE **INSIDE**, AND
NOW

"I'M TURNING
INTO A FREAK!"

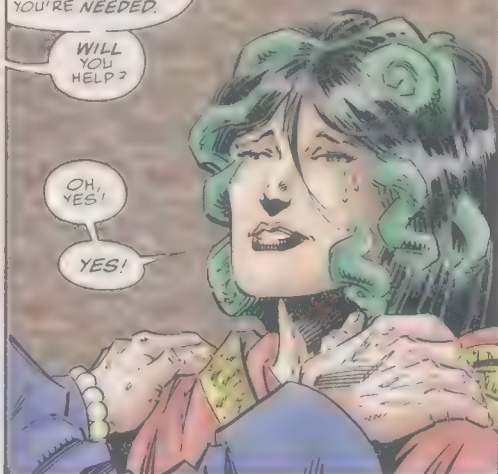
THERE, THERE, CHILD. YOU MAY FIT IN MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER ACCOMPANYING OUR RETRIEVAL SQUAD TO HELP COMPLETE OUR MACHINE SO THAT IT MIGHT ACCOMPLISH ITS GRAND PURPOSE?



YOU SEE, YOU'RE NOT ONLY WELCOME HERE-- YOU'RE NEEDED.

WILL YOU HELP?



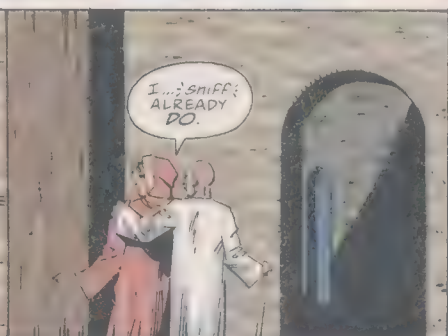
OH, YES!

YES!

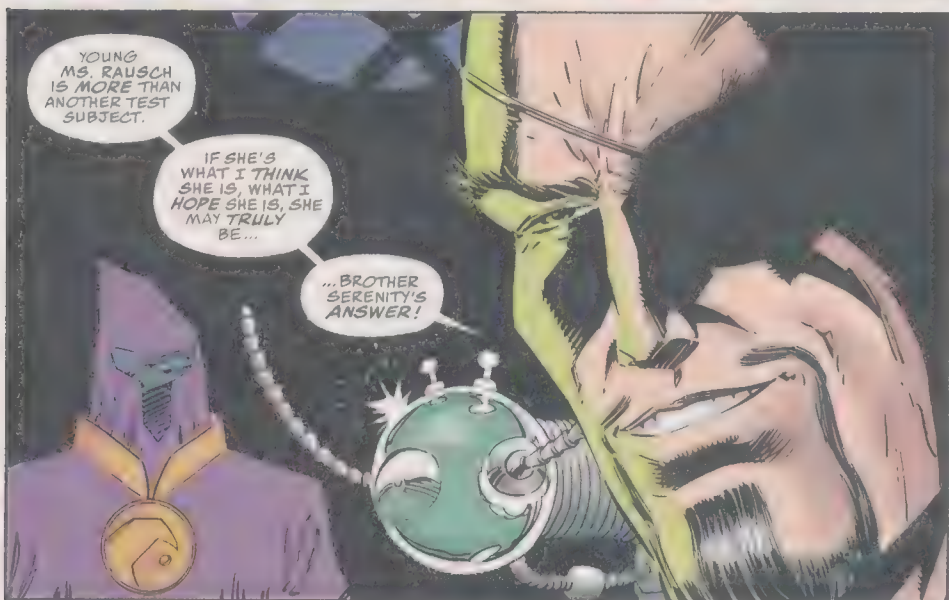


AARON, FIND QUARTERS FOR OUR NEW FRIEND. MAKE CERTAIN SHE FEELS--

--AT HOME.



I...? SNIFF; ALREADY DO.



YOUNG MS. RAUSCH IS MORE THAN ANOTHER TEST SUBJECT.

IF SHE'S WHAT I THINK SHE IS, WHAT I HOPE SHE IS, SHE MAY TRULY BE...

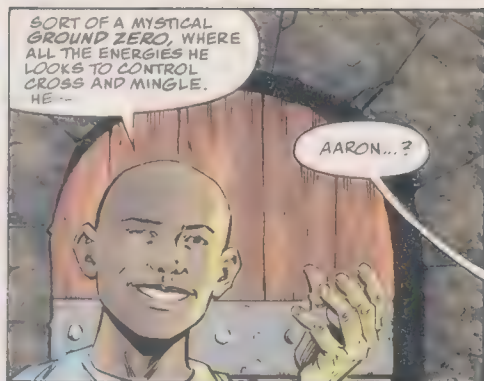
...BROTHER SERENITY'S ANSWER!



NOT EXACTLY
THE HILTON--
NO CABLE.
?heh?

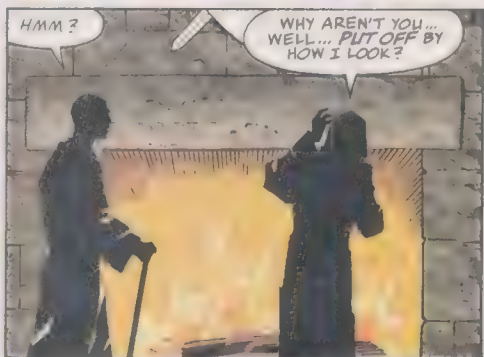
BROTHER ESS
HAD HIS CASTLE
MOVED FROM EUROPE,
BRICK BY BRICK.

HE SAYS
THIS SPOT
IS NEXUS
PRIME.



SORT OF A MYSTICAL
GROUND ZERO, WHERE
ALL THE ENERGIES HE
LOOKS TO CONTROL
CROSS AND MINGLE.
HE --

AARON...?



HMM?

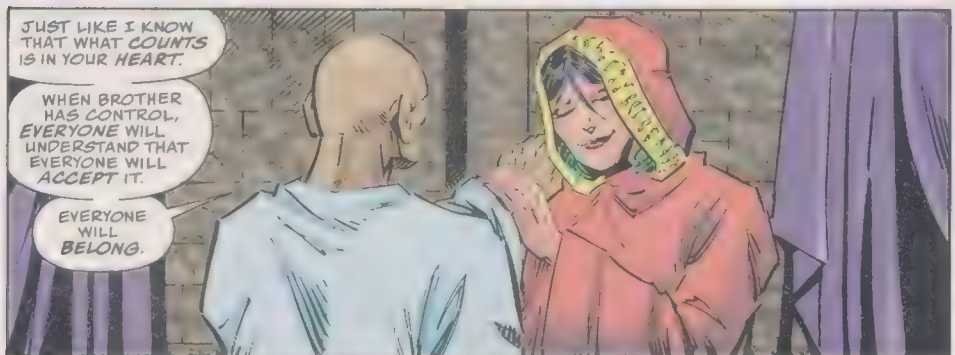
WHY AREN'T YOU...
WELL... PUT OFF BY
HOW I LOOK?



LIKE YOU
HAVEN'T
NOTICED
MY LEG
BRACES?

HAD
'EM SINCE
BIRTH,
MADDY

I KNOW
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
GROW UP
"DIFFERENT."



JUST LIKE I KNOW
THAT WHAT COUNTS
IS IN YOUR HEART.

WHEN BROTHER
HAS CONTROL,
EVERYONE WILL
UNDERSTAND THAT
EVERYONE WILL
ACCEPT IT.

EVERYONE
WILL
BELONG.

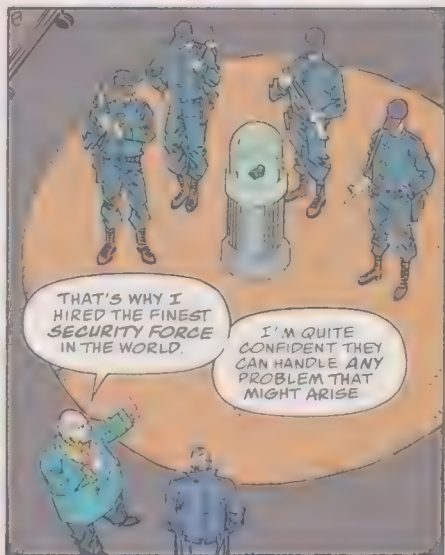
ST MARTEN'S ISLAND - A TURN-
OF-THE-CENTURY ESTATE OWNED
BY SUPREMELY CONFIDENT
MILLIONAIRE -



--LOREN MARCUS.

OF COURSE I
REALIZE MY LITTLE
TREASURE IS A LIKELY
TARGET FOR THIEVES,
MR. KENT

AFTER
ALL, I DO
ALWAYS READ THE
NEWSPAPERS.



THAT'S WHY I
HIRED THE FINEST
SECURITY FORCE
IN THE WORLD.

I'M QUITE
CONFIDENT THEY
CAN HANDLE ANY
PROBLEM THAT
MIGHT ARISE

HHH? THAT TINGLE! LIKE
WHAT I FELT WHEN THOSE
RAIDERS PHASED OUT
AT THE MUSEUM!

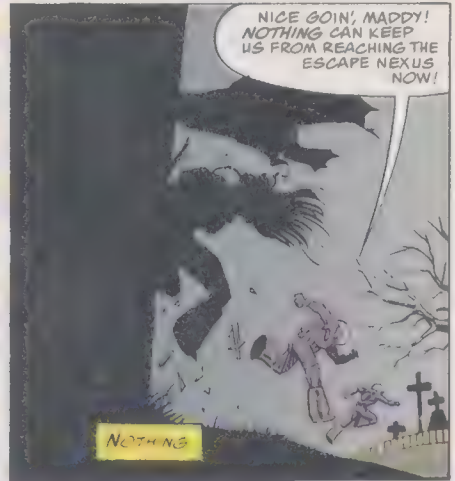


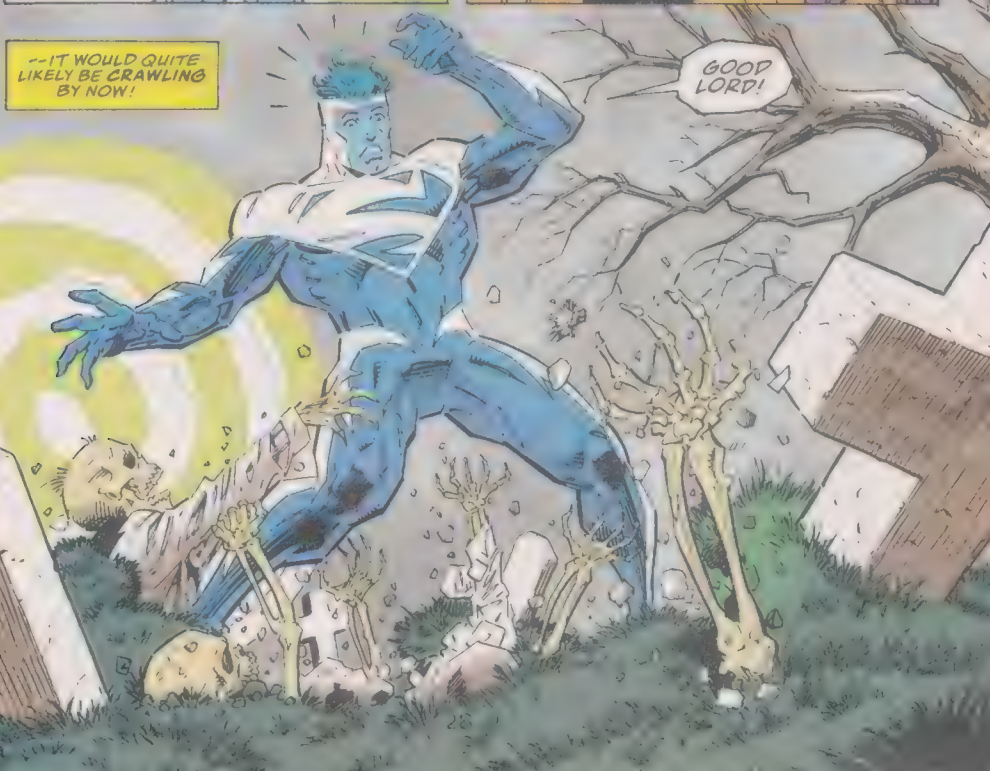
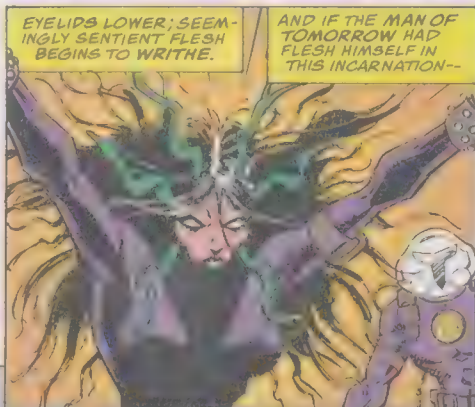
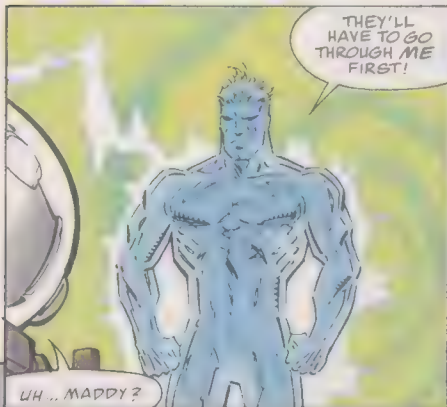
THANKS FOR THE INTERVIEW,
MR. MARCUS, BUT I NEED TO
FILE MY STORY NOW

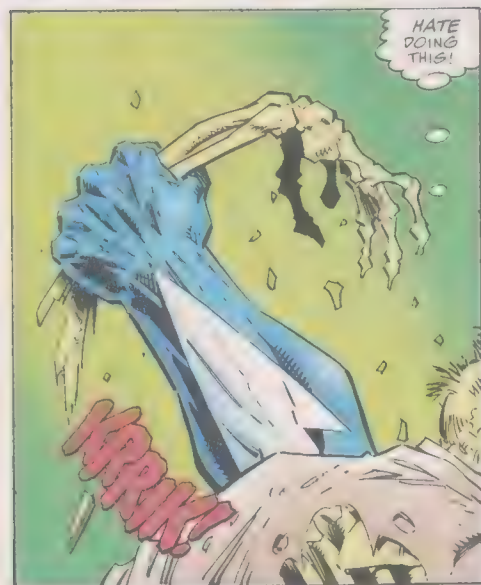
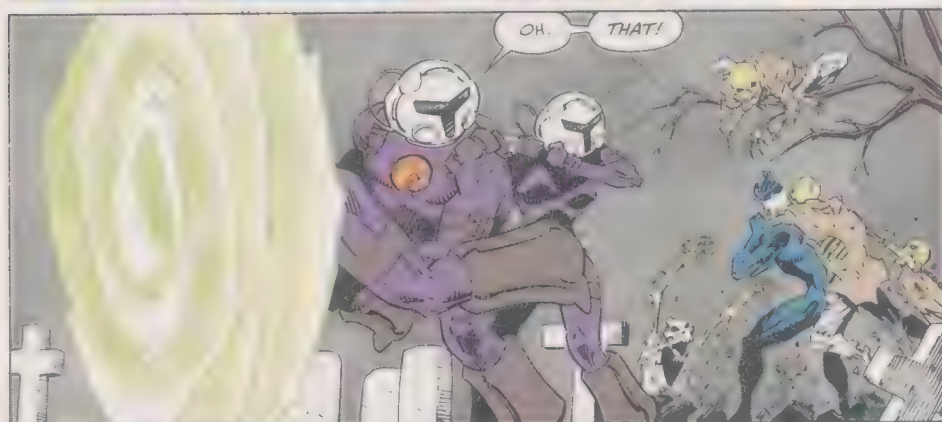
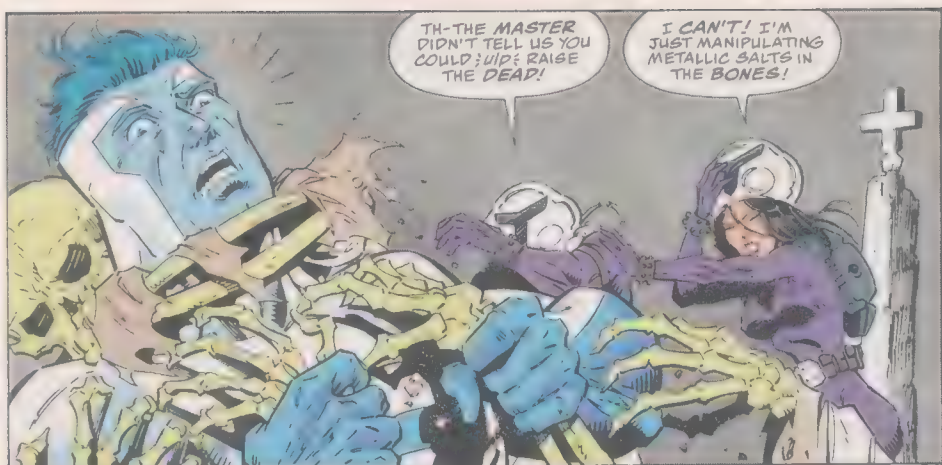
TAKE CARE
TO QUOTE
ME CORRECTLY,
KENT. MY
LAWYERS ALSO
READ!

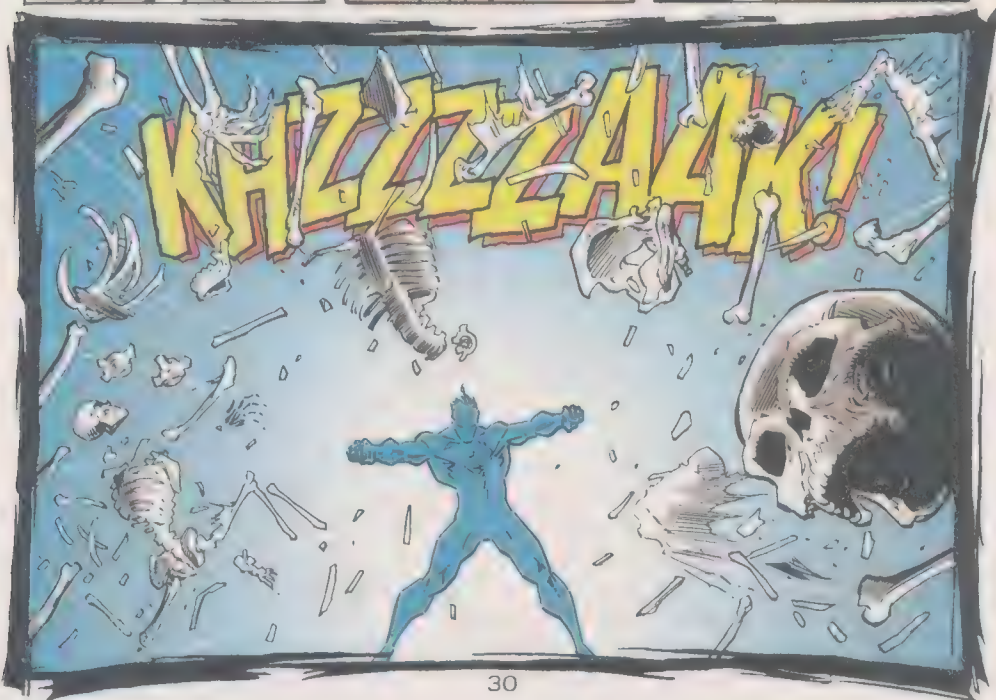
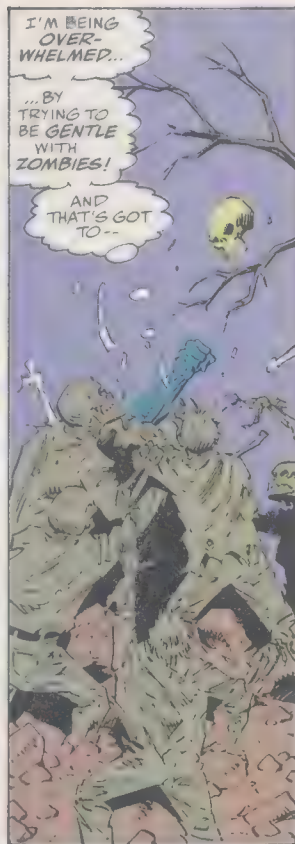


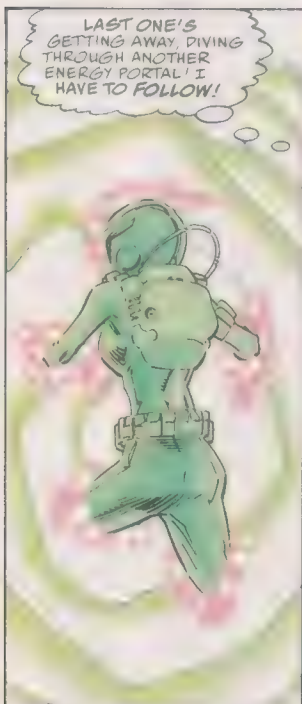
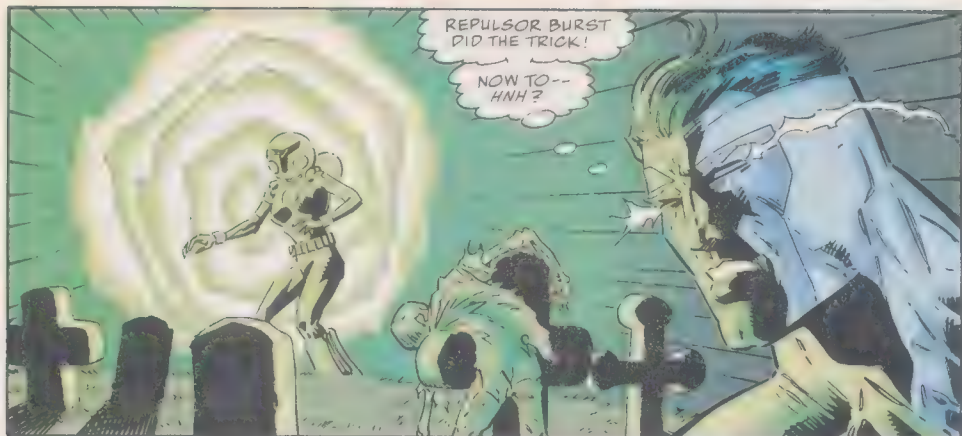




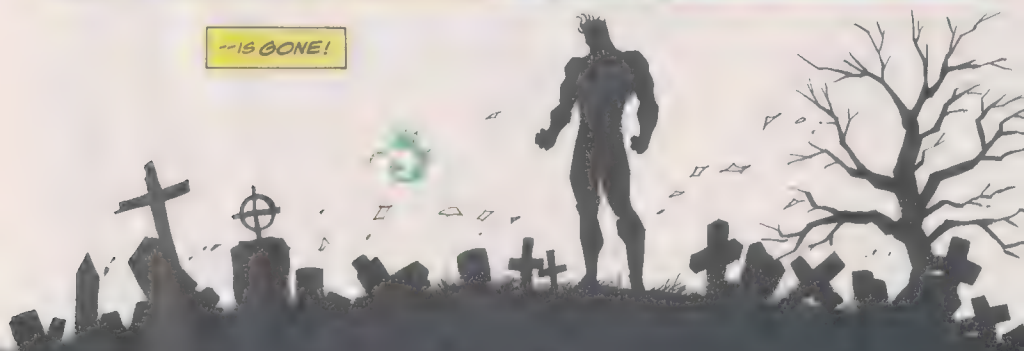








--IS GONE!



ONE HOUR LATER,
AS A SUMMER
STORM CRACKS
THE SKY OVER
METROPOLIS...

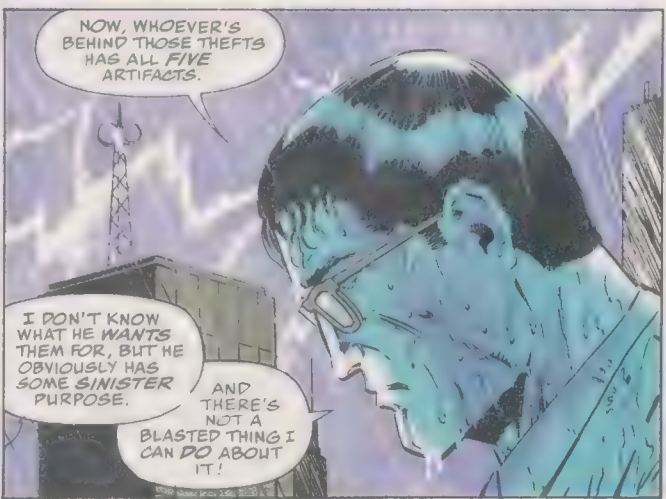
IT
WASN'T
THE
PAIN.



CLARK, PLEASE! YOU'RE HUMAN
NOW, YOU COULD CATCH
PNEUMONIA--!

IT WAS THE
FEELING OF
HELPLESSNESS,
THE TERROR OF
LOSING CON-
TROL.

THAT'S
WHAT MADE
ME HOLD
BACK



NOW, WHOEVER'S
BEHIND THOSE THEFTS
HAS ALL FIVE
ARTIFACTS.

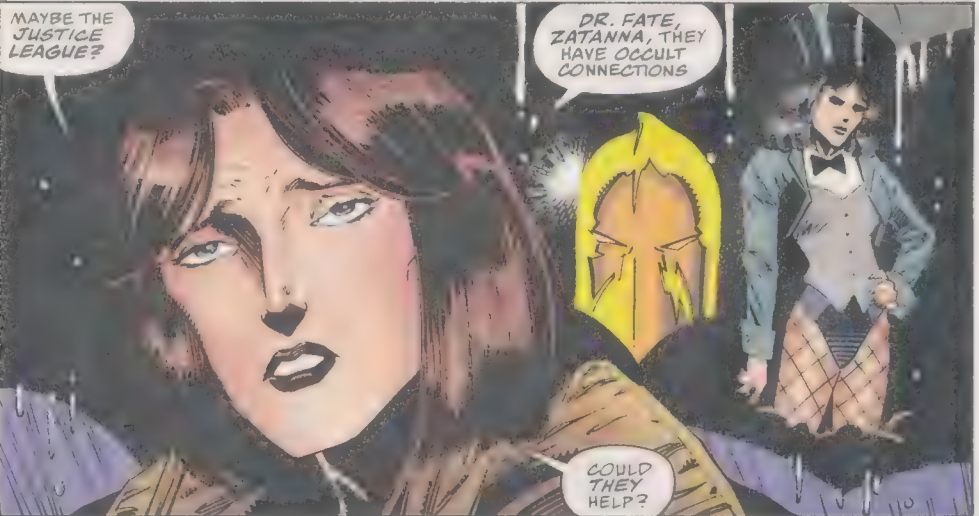
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE WANTS
THEM FOR, BUT HE
OBVIOUSLY HAS
SOME SINISTER
PURPOSE.

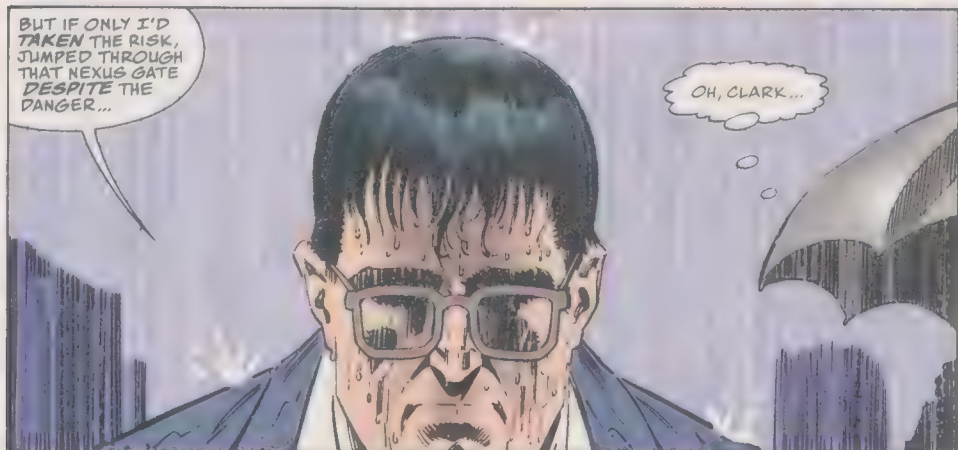
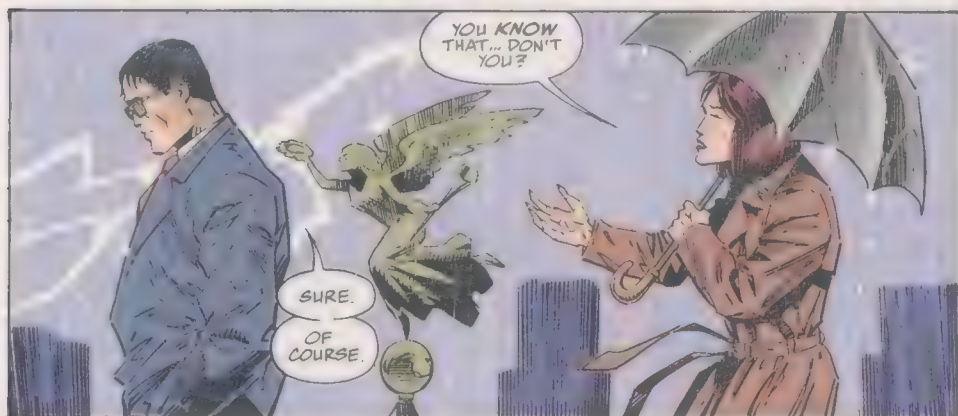
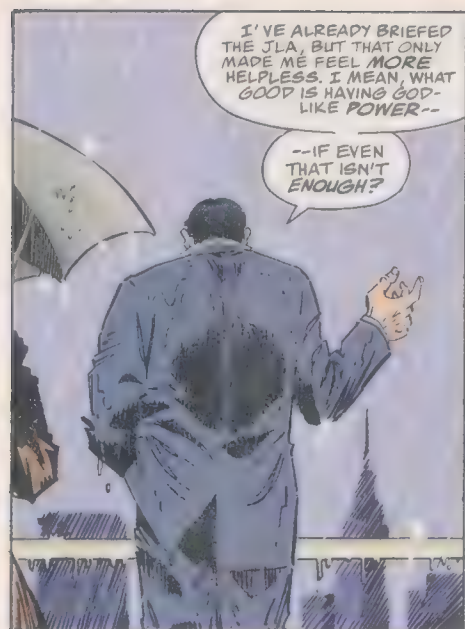
AND THERE'S
NOT A
BLASTED THING I
CAN DO ABOUT
IT!

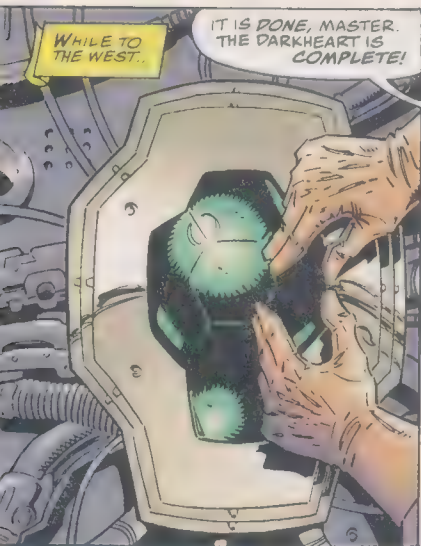
MAYBE THE
JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

DR. FATE,
ZATANNA, THEY
HAVE OCCULT
CONNECTIONS

COULD
THEY
HELP?

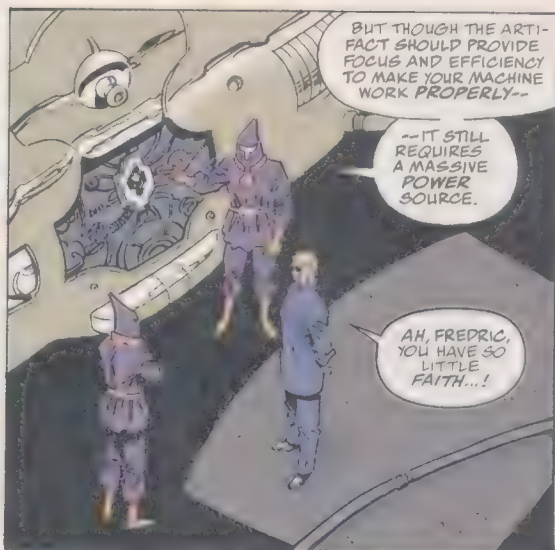






WHILE TO THE WEST.

IT IS DONE, MASTER. THE DARKHEART IS COMPLETE!



BUT THOUGH THE ARTIFACT SHOULD PROVIDE FOCUS AND EFFICIENCY TO MAKE YOUR MACHINE WORK PROPERLY--

--IT STILL REQUIRES A MASSIVE POWER SOURCE.

AH, FREDRIC, YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH...!



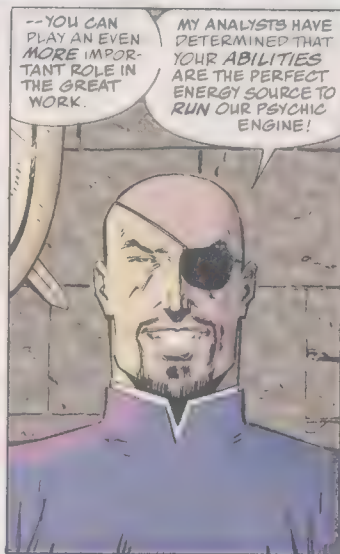
MOMENTS LATER...

MADDY, MY DEAR! YOU WERE SPLENDID!

YOUR EFFORTS WITH THE RETRIEVAL SQUAD WERE INSTRUMENTAL TO THEIR SUCCESS!

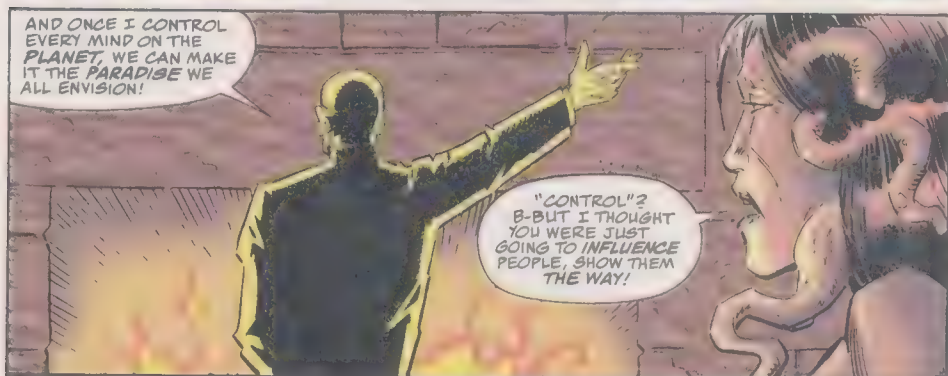
OH, YES! AND NOW--

REALLY?



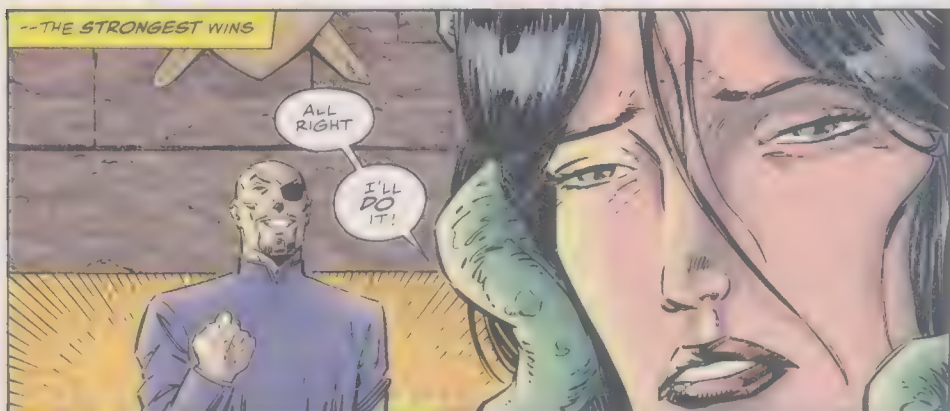
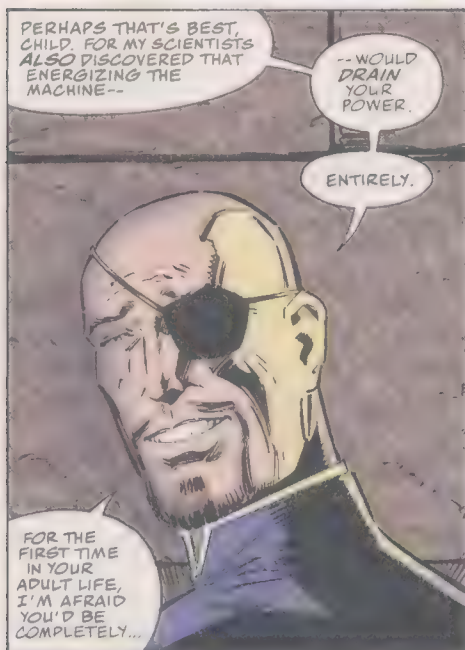
--YOU CAN PLAY AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GREAT WORK.

MY ANALYSTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT YOUR ABILITIES ARE THE PERFECT ENERGY SOURCE TO RUN OUR PSYCHIC ENGINE!



AND ONCE I CONTROL EVERY MIND ON THE PLANET, WE CAN MAKE IT THE PARADISE WE ALL ENVISION!

"CONTROL"? B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST GOING TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE, SHOW THEM THE WAY!



CHAPTER 3

REDEMPTION follows a winding course. For some, it leads to chapels, churches, places of faith and piety where they offer themselves to higher judgment. Others look inward, searching for spiritual wings to lift them, to send them soaring above the tragedies and confusion of their tumbling lives. But a small number like Maddy Rausch find their path to freedom blocked by sacrifice, and slowly realize that for them, redemption can only be gained through...destruction!



The phrase was flippant, meant to soothe. But in the next instant, Lois Lane learns the horrid portent of her casually chosen words...!

AAAGH!

W-WHOLE BODY
JERKING RIGID! LIKE
I JUST STUCK MY
FINGER IN A LIGHT
SOCKET!

C-C-C-CLAAARRK--?



SOMETHING
PULLING AT ME,
DRAINING ME!
AND AS CLARK
KENT, I'M COM-
PLETELY VULNER-
ABLE!

HAVE TO
CONCENTRATE,
HOPE THAT WHAT-
EVER'S DOING THIS
WON'T AFFECT--



SUPERMAN!



I'M SAFE--
BUT HOW CAN
I HELP
LOIS?



SPECTRA-SIGHT
SHOWS SOME KIND OF
ENERGY BEING DRAWN
OFF, ARCING
TOWARDS THE--



--SKY? GREAT STARS!

THOUSANDS, TENS
OF THOUSANDS OF ENERGY
LINES BEING PULLED
UPWARD! WHATEVER'S
HAPPENING TO LOIS IS
HAPPENING TO THE ENTIRE
CITY! MAYBE EVEN--



--THE
WORLD!



WHILE IN THE JERSEY MARSHLANDS

HAVE
COURAGE,
CHILD.

YOUR
PAIN IS
FLEETING--

--BUT THE
WONDERS
IT BRINGS
SHALL LAST
FOREVER!



IT IS DONE,
MASTER!

THE
MACHINE
IS FULLY
POWERED!



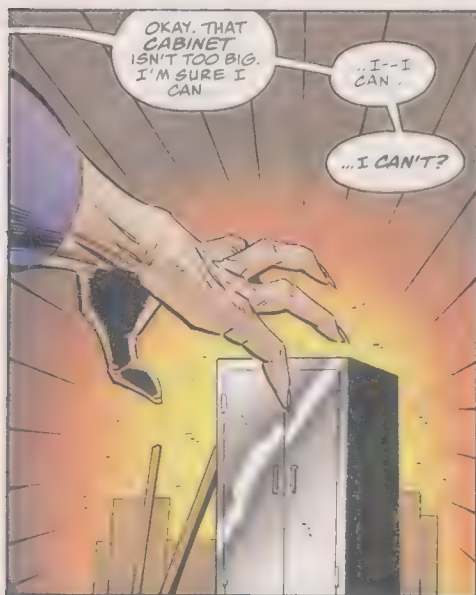
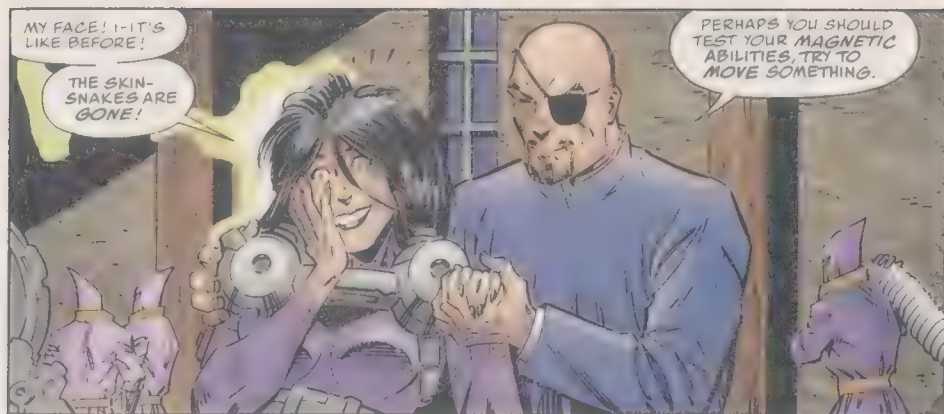
I
I--I
FEEL...

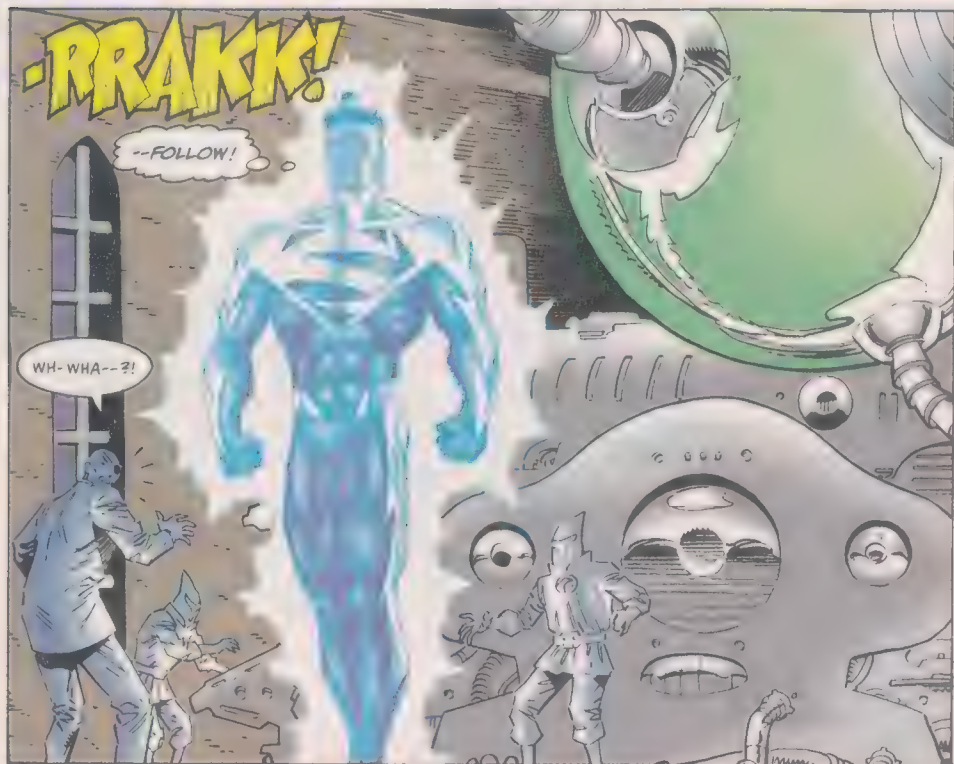
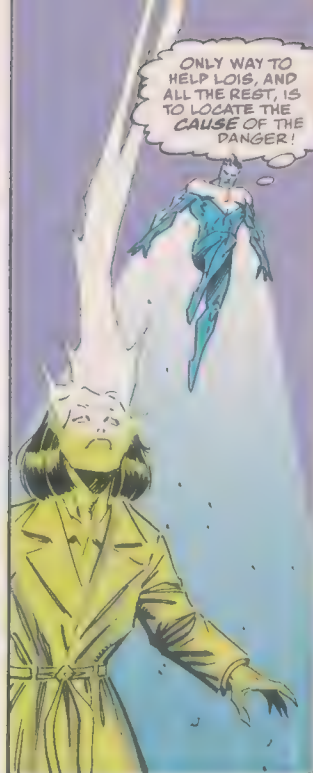
EMPTY



YOU ARE,
MY DEAR.

EMPTY
OF YOUR
CURSE.







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SEND: This completed offer form, a label from TANG and \$1.75 for postage & handling for each ball ordered. No cash or stamps accepted. **Make Check or Money Order Payable To: TANG Soccer Ball Promotion**

MAIL TO: TANG Soccer Ball Promotion, Department B,

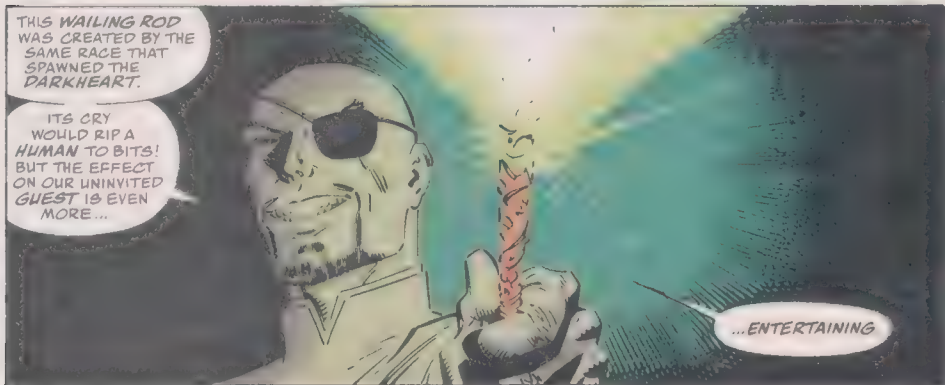
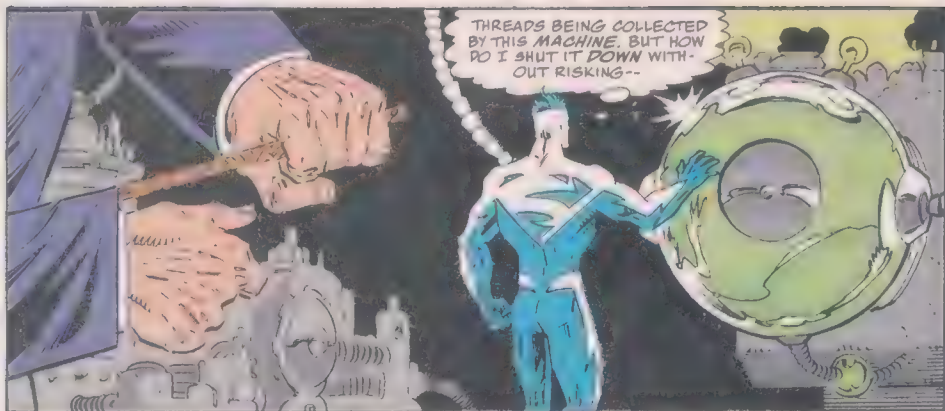
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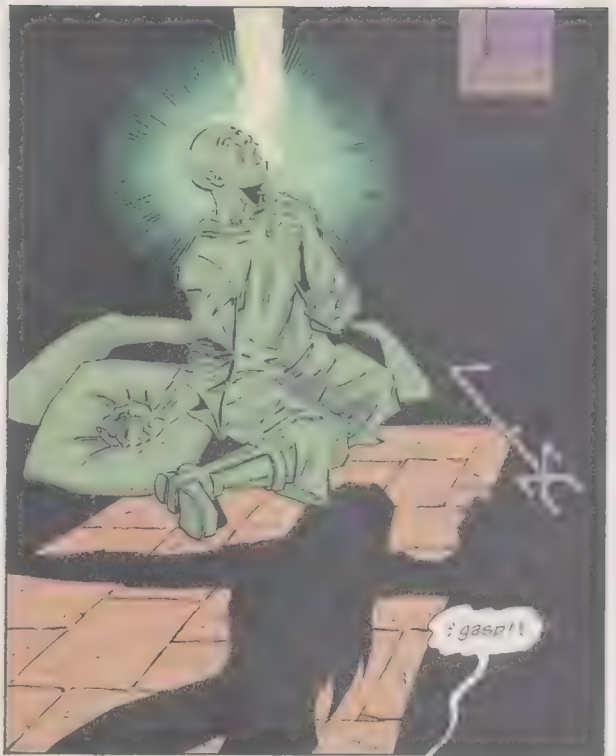
see form for

NAME	DATE	STATE	ZIP	CITY	Area Code
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TANG.
It's a kick
in a glass.™





Born to Run!

The FLASH



THE FLASH: BOB AND ALAN
AT CRAFT, JOHNSON, MARK MILLER,
PAUL WELLS, AND JOHNNY IERO.

SHED FORGET ONE HOT
EVER: MARK WAID, BRIAN AUGUSTIN,
JOHN BYRNE, JIM LARRO,
THE GIMMELTOS, OWEN JIMENEZ,
AND OTHERS.

THE FLASH: SECRET FILES OF
THE FLASH FAMILY

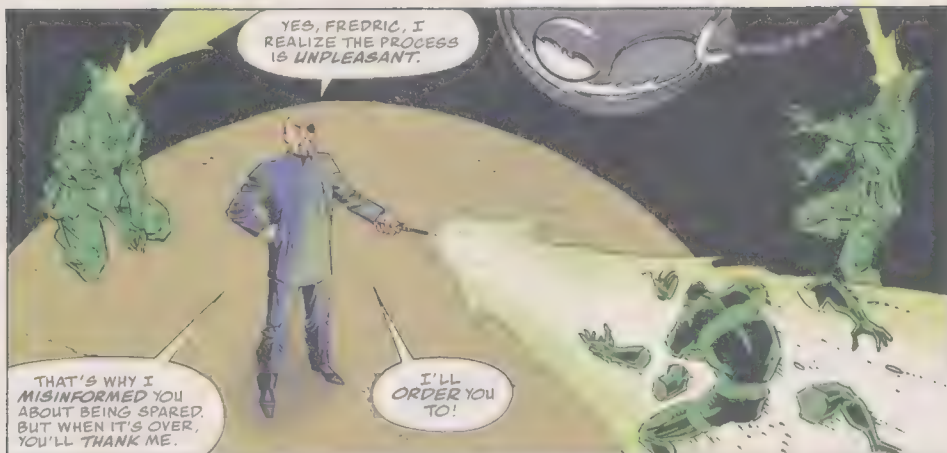
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Flash Month
this September**

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The Flash* hardcover graphic novel

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YES, FREDRIC, I
REALIZE THE PROCESS
IS UNPLEASANT.

THAT'S WHY I
MISINFORMED YOU
ABOUT BEING SPARED.
BUT WHEN IT'S OVER,
YOU'LL THANK ME.

I'LL
ORDER YOU
TO!



DEVIL! YOU
BETRAYED
US!

OH, STOP
WHINING! BE
GRATEFUL I
ALLOWED YOU
TO RETAIN--



--YOUR SOUL. FOR THAT'S
WHAT THIS DEVICE DOES: IT
COLLECTS SOULS. AND
WHEN THEY ALL BELONG
TO ME--

--THE WORLD
WILL OBEY MY
EVERY WHIM!
THOUGH I WASN'T
ENTIRELY
DECEPTIVE: WAR
WILL END.



FOR HOW CAN THERE
BE CONFLICT, WHEN
THE ONLY ONE WHO
COULD OPPOSE
ME IS--

--WAS--

--SUPERMAN?

NO



NOT
THE ONLY
ONE!

WHA--?

AS HOSTIVE
RADAR IMAGES
SPREAD SHE
AT LAST
UNDERSTANDS

FOR ALL HER ADULT LIFE SHE
POSSESSED THE POWER OF A
GOD, AND YET WAS AFRAID OF
THE VERY ACT OF LIVING.

AND IT IS ONLY WITH
THE LOSS OF THAT
INCREDIBLE POWER
THAT SHE FINDS THE
COURAGE TO SAC-
RIFICE WHAT COULD
BE--

--FOR THE GREATER
WORTH OF WHAT
SHOULD BE!



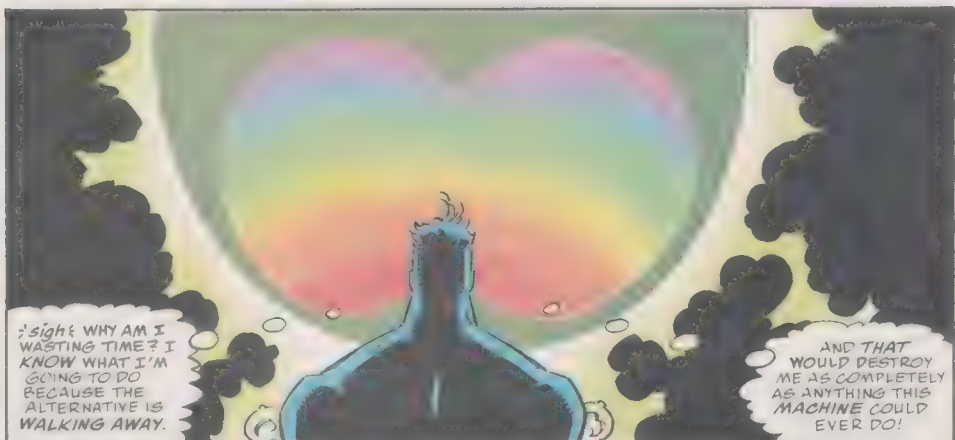
THAT
WOMAN
BROKE THE
BEAM!

GAVE ME...
ANOTHER
CHANCE!

THAT'S ONE
CHANCE I
WON'T WASTE!



ALTHOUGH
I'LL ENJOY
WASTING THIS
BLASTED
STICK!

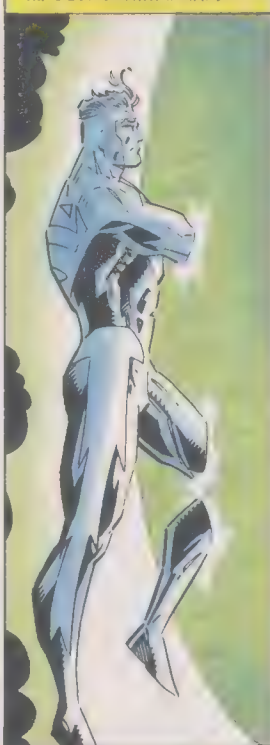


SLOWLY, HE RISES
TOWARD THE
SCINTILLATING
SPHERE...



BLINKLESS
EYES SCANNING,
ANALYZING,
DETERMINING.

UNTIL AT LAST HE REACHES
OUT, FINGERS MELDING,
LAYERS PEELING, AS HE FEELS
HIMSELF DRAWN INWARD...



...AND CONSCIOUSLY COMMANDS
HIS ENERGY TO ALTER, MATCHING
THAT OF THE ARCANE FORCES HE
FINDS

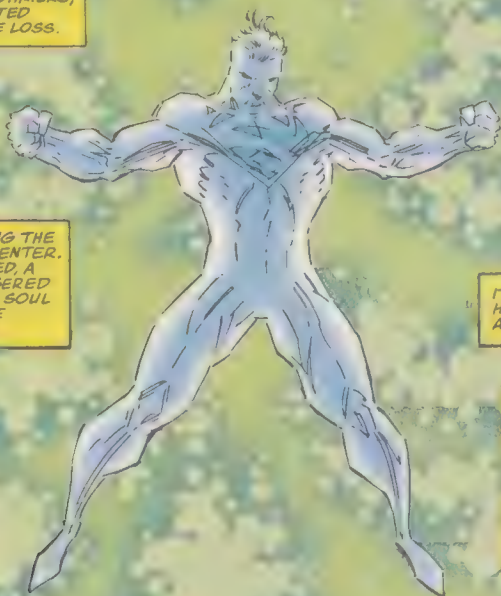


LITERALLY
BECOMING
ONE WITH
THEM!

HE FEELS A BILLION SHRIEKS,
KNOWS THE UNCOUNTED
SORROWS OF INFINITE LOSS.

AND IT IS
FROM
THESE HE
DRAWS
STRENGTH.

HE OPENS, URGING THE
DARK ENERGY TO ENTER.
IT BEGINS TO FEED, A
LUSTY MEAL TRIGGERED
BY THE TANG OF A SOUL
UNIQUE IN THE
UNIVERSE



IT IS THEN HE WRAPS
HIS WILL AROUND IT...
AND THE TIDE TURNS.

WRESTING CONTROL, HE
USES HIS OWN FORCE TO
PUSH... PUSH...

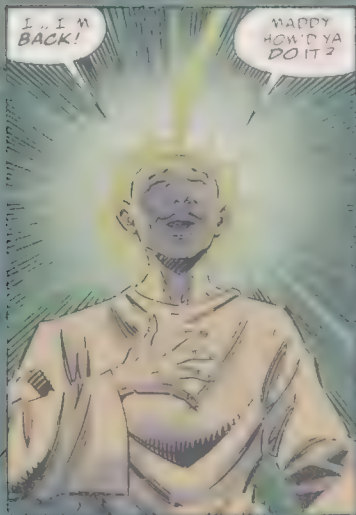
...UNTIL THE RIVER OF
SOULS SWINGS 'ROUND,
LOCKING INTO RAPID
AND IRREVOCABLE--

--REVERSE!



I... I'M
BACK!

HAPPY
HOW'D YA
DO IT?

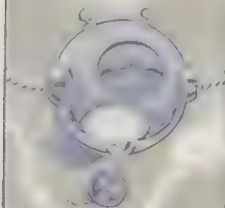


I-IT'S
OVER!
TS--

CLARK?



WHILE AT BLAYLOK
CASTLE, THE
OCCULT ENGINE
SHUDDERS ONCE--



--AND FALLS
STILL

LEAVING THE
QUESTION OF
SURVIVAL. A
DOUBT SOON
ALLAYED~

--BY A SHIMMER
OF BLUE.

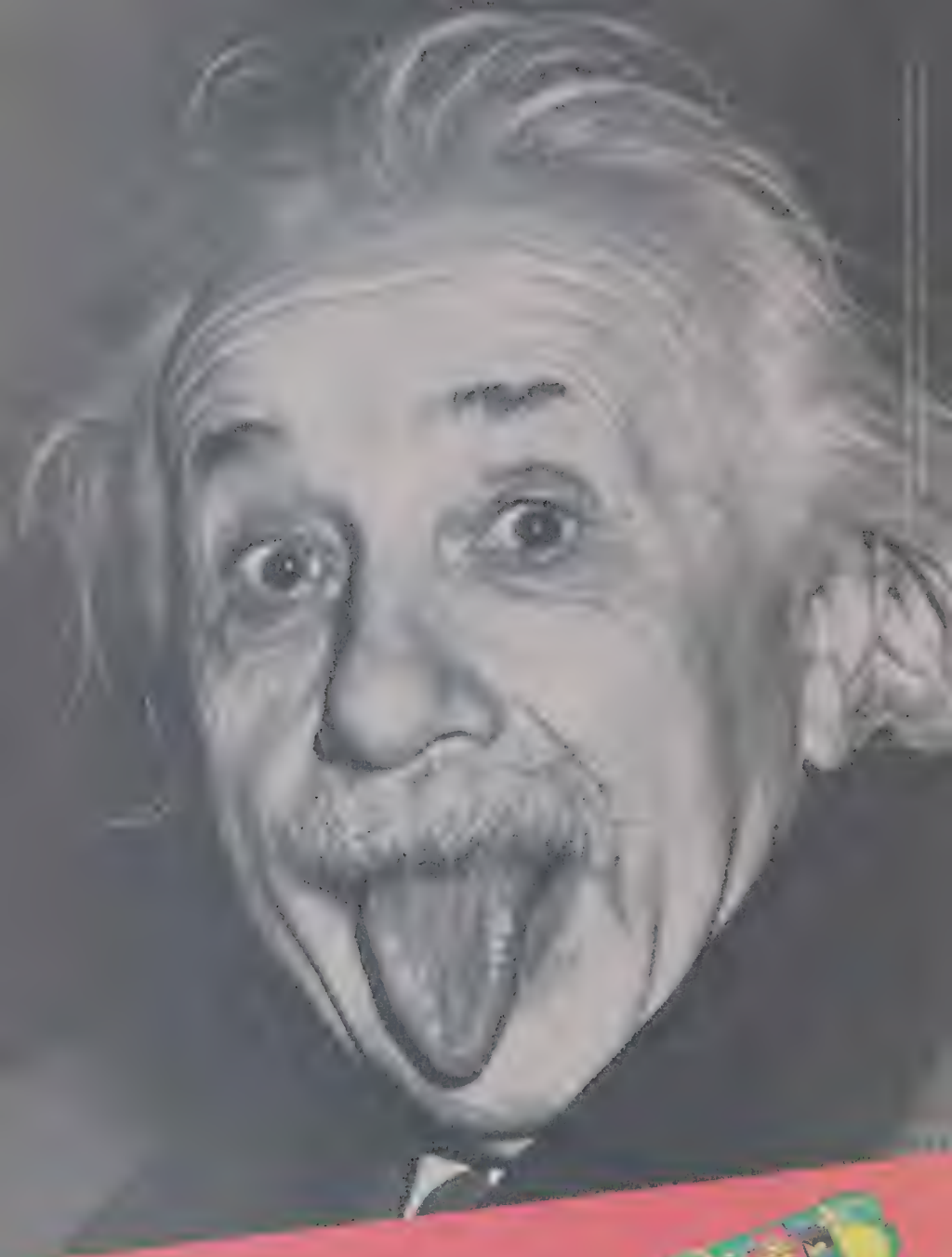
A COALESCENCE
THAT ANNOUNCES
ALL SOULS HAVE
RETURNED.

INCLUDING THE
SOUL OF
METROPOLIS:

SUPERMAN







Give your day the brain off.



LET IT OUT

TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER
AUTOPSIES AND EXPLANATIONS

-- WHOSE SPIRIT
WILL SHINE ON
TO ILLUMINATE
HEAVEN

REST IN PEACE.

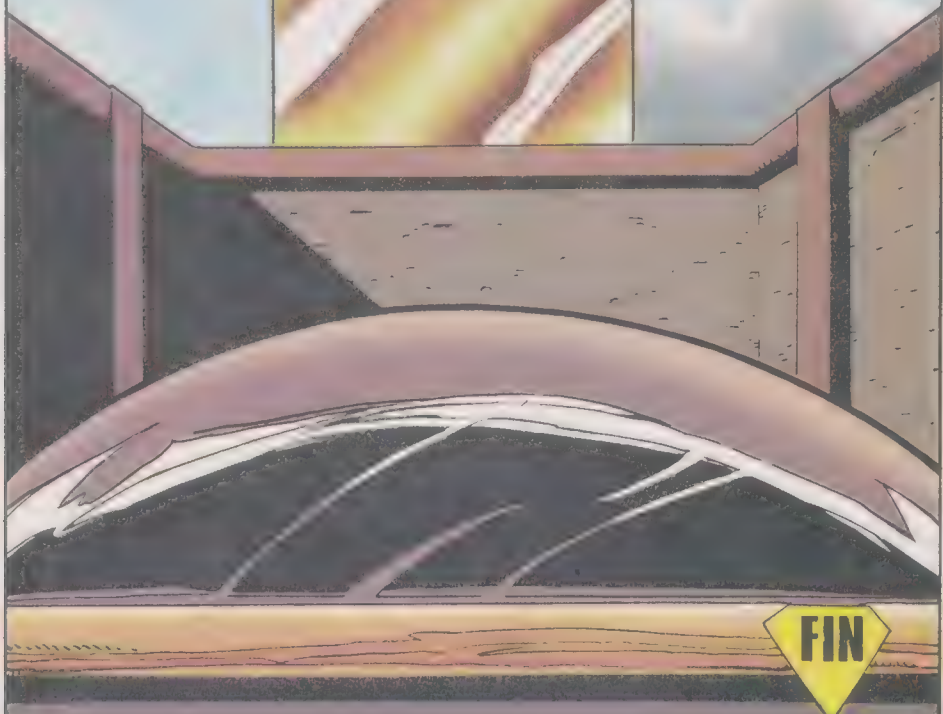
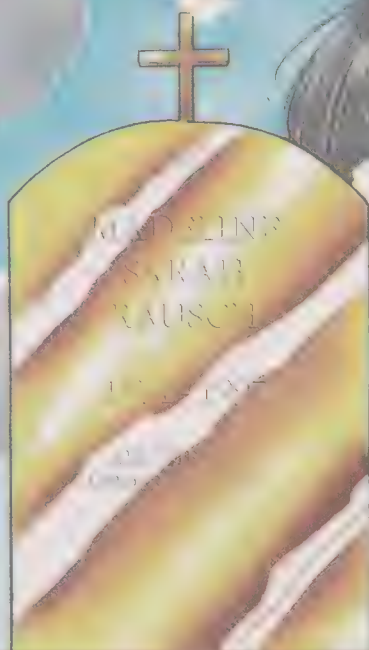
SUCH A WASTE.
MADDY LET
FEAR RULE HER
WHOLE LIFE

BUT YOU
OVERCAME
YOUR FEAR.

WHEN IT
MATTERED YOU WERE
TRUE TO WHAT YOU ARE:
SOMEONE WILLING TO
SACRIFICE ALL FOR THE
GOOD OF OTHERS

BUT MADDY
COULD NEVER EVEN
ACCEPT WHO SHE
WAS. AND IN THE
END--

"--THAT WAS HER
GREATEST
TRAGEDY "



FIN



Whew! Well, here we are—the final Superman annual for this year, and our last group of letters commenting on Superman's costume and power changes. So without further ado, let's get to it...

Dear DC:

The new Superman doesn't fit, just like when he first tried his boots. My whole class agrees with me. I love your comics and think you do well, but the new Superman is a big error.

Listen to the kids—they're where you get your money. A lot of kids won't like the new suit, and you'll lose a lot of business. Who wants a super-hero with lightning bolts coming out of his head? If someone rescued me like that, I'd run away. Most people's dream is to fly, and you'll take that dream away by replacing Superman.

That's just how I feel.

NICHOLAS PIKE
SARBORNVILLE, NH

Dear DC:

I was shocked and dismayed when I read in a local newspaper that Superman's powers are being changed. How could you possibly think of changing the colors and symbol that are recognized as Superman? That's like somebody changing the color of a Coke can to blue!

Superman is identified as being in a red, blue and yellow suit. Why do you have to make him look like a modern super-hero? Whatever he's wearing shouldn't matter—he's Superman. Batman hasn't changed his costume, and neither has Superman. It would be ruining a tradition that no one has the right to change! I beg you to reconsider! Superman Forever!

LARA SKIMMER
VALENCIA, CA

Y'know, Lara—we wholeheartedly agree with you. It *shouldn't* matter what costume Big Blue is wearing—he is Superman. Thanks for reminding us that it *shouldn't* matter we changed it. In return, we give you this month's Baldy, which will never change!

By the way, Batman has changed his costume several times over the years, the biggest being the addition of the yellow emblem in 1964. He removed the outer trunks back in 1995, and he's changed his costume in every movie—several times in the last two alone!

Dear Editors:

There are a couple of reasons why, after almost 30 years of being a Superman fan, I'm writing my first letter to you. First of all—and most important—to tell you what a great job you've been doing.

Over the past decade, I've been treated to some of the best storylines by the many talented writers and artists at DC, who have all contributed their finest to the Superman legend. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster would be proud. Their creation has been a part of my life since I was four years old. The first comic I ever read was an issue of *WORLD'S FINEST*, with a cover by the amazing Neal Adams. His depiction of the Superman/Batman Revenge Squad smashing down with a clenched fist on a likeness of the original world's finest heroes is an image that has remained with me throughout the years. I can still close my eyes and remember the smell of the twelve-cent(!) comic book held in my tiny hands as I walked out of the local 7-Eleven with my father. Sitting in the backseat of our family's Volkswagen bus, I devoured each colorful page. It was on that day I was introduced to the Superman mythos.

Which leads me to the second reason why I'm writing this letter. I'm concerned about the upcoming costume and powers change for my favorite Kryptonian. I feel it's a big mistake. Is nothing sacred? The "S" symbol is one of the most identifiable icons in the world, and to destroy that conception for the sake of a gimmick is a huge disappointment—especially to the memory of Superman's creators. Angry fan reaction to the ill-conceived events that took place with your competitor's web-slinging hero should be a reminder that sometimes change isn't necessarily a good thing.

GORDON THOMAS FRANK
ALEXANDRIA, VA

Dear Sirs:

I can't believe you're going to take one of the oldest, most recognized, most imitated heroes in comic-book history and totally mess him up. That is *not* Superman; it's some hero you drew up and put a goofy-looking "S" emblem on his chest. Every Superman fan whom I've spoken with is not at all happy with your changing him.

First you killed him, then you took away



DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

his powers. Why don't you just let Superman fight for Truth, Justice and the American Way, just the way he should? I'm sure this is all for the sake of sales, and it's sad to be coming at the expense of the greatest hero in comic-book history.

MICHAEL KOEHLER
WACO, TX

Dear DC:

Say it isn't true! Please don't do it—don't change Superman! I can't believe that you're doing this. The experience Marvel went through with Spider-Man should have shown you what could happen and will happen.

I've been reading your comic for over 20 years, and I currently buy approximately 30 titles a month. Please don't change Superman. I'm not going to threaten to stop reading Superman until he's changed back. I promise I will not buy another DC comic until he is changed back. Of course, you at DC Comics won't "feel" the loss of those 30 comics I buy from you each month, but maybe the loss of a fan of your books for over 20 years will change your mind.

Thanks for the great reading. DC was the best. I know my letter won't change a thing. I guess I'll start reading and buying (since that's all you seem to understand) again when you come to your senses and stop this madness!

JACK T. LAY
MORRISTOWN, TN

Of course we feel the loss of a reader, Jack, and not just from a profit-minded position. The goal is to entertain you readers. While we're not just gonna put everything back the way it was in order to win you back (cuz caving in every time a reader threatens to leave would destroy any hope of our putting out consistent quality), we do hope you've since changed your position on the matter. Otherwise, you're missing out on some fun stuff. But hey, if you're not around, then you're not even reading this, so let's move on, shall we...?

Dear DC:

I understand that you've probably had enough letters and phone calls to drive you crazy, but I'm afraid I must be heard as well. I'm writing, of course, about your planned changes

to the character of Superman. Why are you changing him in such a dramatic way, and what are you planning to do to him in the future?

I've grown up looking up to Superman, as has all of my family. I purchase every title that has Superman in it, because he is and always will be my favorite super-hero. I read in newspaper articles and other sources that the reason you might want to make such dramatic changes to the character is that the youth and adolescents are not taking interest in the old Superman. Well, guess what—I'm in that age group. I'm 15 years old, and I liked the old Superman better than this new-age one. This new Superman is not Superman in my book, and never will be. Comic-book collecting is a big thing around here, and Superman and Batman are the most popular among most teens and adolescents.

Maybe you figure that kids will like a more modern Superman. Well, if no one my age wants to buy it, and the adults don't agree with the change, they aren't going to tell their children about Superman, and their children will hear about other things. The new Superman looks like something that came out of Marvel Comics, who I have always hated.

I even tested a theory I had. I showed my six-year-old cousin a picture of the real Superman. Then I showed a picture of the new Superman, not saying who it was supposed to be. My cousin answered it was the Flash or Spider-Man. I said it was the new Superman, to which my cousin said it looked stupid. I also tested the same thing with people my age, and the results were the same.

Now, that's the age group you want to appeal to. I seriously don't believe that you'll have any luck there. You can't change something kids have grown up with, and become familiar with and accustomed to.

At some point in everybody's life, I think they probably wanted to be Superman. I know I wanted to fly, and have heat vision, and be able to see through things, and be really strong. Now you're going to change all that. I remember always trying to take off or fly like Superman did, or lift huge things. I'd like to see a kid today try to teleport himself through a phone line, or shoot electrical blasts out of his body. At Halloween, there must be at least hundreds of kids dressed up as Superman, with the blue suit, red boots, the famous red and yellow "S"

shield and cape. It'll be strange to see kids walking around in a blue and white suit, glowing like they'd just stuck their finger in an electrical outlet.

I've bought every Superman title since 1991, and I'd have liked to continue the collection I have going now. I don't agree with the changes you and your company are making, and I think you have your reasons all backwards. Remember that the people who buy your comics are the ones who keep you in business, and you should listen to them. I sincerely hope that you reconsider the changes you've made to one of the most beloved heroes of all time, and arguably the most recognizable.

Please do not cause me to abandon a hobby and tradition that I've enjoyed for half of my life.

MICHAEL AUDETTE
RUTLAND, VT

Dear Super-People:

I have to say, what the hell are you people thinking? I heard on *Access: Hollywood* that Superman's getting a new look! He looks like an ice cube! And his shield is all messed up!

Now, if this new look is an ELSEWORLDS thing, which I'm hoping it is, I'd be OK with it. I'd think he would look pretty cool, then. But this thing is like something a little more permanent, and that kind of freaks me out.

Please respond to this letter, because, you know, I want to know if this ice cube Superman rumor is true.

JIMMY FAUBER
ONTARIO, CANADA

'Ice Cube—Superman? It's nothin' but a rumor, Jim, a myth. Though we're hearing Nicholas Cage is a candidate for the movie next year. Glad we could clear that all up!

—Mike McAvennie
Myth-Informed

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WATCH this space

No. 62

REPORT FROM THE CHICAGO COMICON (part 1 of 2): Just about a month and a half back, the **Chicago Comicon** was held July 4th weekend. Technically, it was held in a suburb called Rosemont at their Convention Center, but who's keepin' track!

The **DC Booth** was packed to the rafters every day (or woulda been, if we had rafters) with fans pickin' up freebies (posters 'n' pins), lookin' at previews for upcoming DC books, and *comics pros signin' their works*. Long lines moved quickly for, among others, **Mark IMPULSE/KINGDOM COME Waid**, **Brian Augustyn**, and **Barry Kitson** (it's about how the JLA first came together lo, those many years ago) which should be out in November, and the **INFERNO** miniseries, by **Stuart Immonen** and **Wade Von Grawbadger** (the first of a series of **LEGION OF SUPER HEROES** minis— and it's out this week!).

KICKED UPSTAIRS: At the slideshow, Publisher **Paul Levitz** announced that "Bad" **Dan Raspler**, who edits **LOBO**, **THE SPECTRE**, and sundry JLA projects, has been booted up to the perch of *Group Editor*. Dan's work with Waid & Ross on **KINGDOM COME** was also cited as a job worthy of reward. What this means is Dan gets to have a lot more fun reviewing proposals submitted by other editors (along with the law firm of **Carlin, Goodwin, and O'Neill**) advising where he can, going to a lot more meetings, and is handed a key to the Group Editors' washroom (same as the regular washroom, though you don't really need a key to get in — but no one will tell us peons why the TP is locked up!!!).

It was also announced that **Mark Chiarello** (who supervises all of DC's color work and cover art) was being promoted to Group Editor as well! Mark's work on our covers since he joined DC in 1993 speaks for itself—we've *never* been dressed so snazzy! And they just don't come more colorful than Ch-ch-ch-chial! (We *told* you about Hawaiian shirt day already, didn't we!) Congrats, Dan and Mark.

STAR TREKFAST: Bobby G (known to his kids as **Bob Greenberger**), DC's scheduling king, check distributor and continuity cop had breakfast with actor **George Takei**

and **Peter David**, **SUPERGIRL** and **AQUAMAN** writer. George had just gotten back from Canada where he'd guested in a TV series — the brainchild of John Woo, who directed the big budget thriller "Face/Off." - It should debut in the fall. Check local listings.

Special thanks to Commander **David Vinson** (whose dad is one of the finest gentlemen one could ever meet), who, along with his valiant crew **Vince Letterio**, **Ivan Cohen**, **Andrew Lis**, **Rich Markow**, and **Shira Levine** (who broke out into an impromptu dance every time the **Smashing Pumpkins** song from the "Batman & Robin" movie came on the big DC video screen), once again made the convention run as smooth as Superman's... uh... Supergirl's cape.



READ THIS SPACE! ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #9 — Superman vs. Cult ■ ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #651 — Superman's suit on the Fritz! (GENESIS crossover) ■ AQUAMAN #37 — Parademons in Posidonis (GENESIS crossover) ■ THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ADVENTURES #23 — Killer Croc's in love ■ BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN #11 — Birthday Bats ■ CARTOON NETWORK PRESENTS #3 — Cartoon character support group ■ CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #9 — Original Challs ■ DETECTIVE COMICS #714 — Keeping up with J'onzzes ■ GENESIS #3 — Darkseid, even more powerful! ■ HITMAN #19 — "Ace of Killers" concludes ■ INFERNO #1 (of 4) — the hottest Legionnaire is trapped in the 20th century. What to do? Go shopping! ■ LOBO #44 — The Main Man wins a GoldStar (GENESIS crossover) ■ LOONEY TUNES #33 — Taz in school, no Teacher's pet ■ MAJOR BUMMER #3 — the super-villains arrive ■ MAD SUPER-SPECIAL #123 — All-power issue! (not a GENESIS crossover) ■ NIGHT FORCE #11 — Winters turns to an enemy for help ■ RESURRECTION MAN #6 — No powers! If he dies this time, he stays dead (GENESIS crossover) ■ SUPERBOY #44 — an island of Superboys? ■ YOUNG HEROES IN LOVE #5 — Hard Drive loses control (GENESIS crossover)



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